

GOVERNOR CALLS SPECIAL SESSION ON HOUSING CRISIS

**Smith Declares Only Building
on Large Scale Will Bring
Adequate Relief.**

ORDERS ELECTIONS HERE

**Says Districts Formerly Rep-
resented by Ousted Socialists
Must Have Voice.**

MANY HOUSING BILLS READY

**Greatest Need Is State and City
Aid In Building Homes,
Says Curran.**

Special to The New York Times.

ALBANY, Aug. 12.—Governor Smith tonight issued a proclamation convening the Legislature in extraordinary session on the evening of Sept. 20. He announced also that he would call five special elections for Sept. 16 in New York, Kings and Bronx Counties, to fill the places of the five Socialist Assemblymen who were ousted at the regular session.

Primarily the Legislature is to act on housing conditions in the State, with particular reference to New York City, but the Governor will take some action on the fight that is being waged against the New York Telephone Company's latest demand for an increase in rates. He may recommend that the Rate Suspension bill, which failed of passage at the last session, receive consideration.

In a formal statement issued tonight the Governor announced the call for the extra session as follows:

"After a conference with several members of the Legislative Committee on Housing, at which conference I was informed that the committee was prepared to make recommendations to the Legislature that would go a considerable distance toward relieving the acute situation throughout the State in relation to the matter of housing facilities for our people, I have decided to call the Legislature in extraordinary session to convene at the Capitol on Sept. 20.

Underlying Evil Uncured.

"In addition, I have been requested by individuals and organizations of citizens generally throughout the State to give an opportunity for the presentation of measures intended to bring relief. The Legislature, at its regular session, gave earnest consideration to the question of housing. A number of statutes were passed to affect the relations of landlord and tenant, to the end that there may be a check upon some of the abuses made possible by the shortage of buildings. These measures have undoubtedly served a useful purpose, but it was never expected that they would have any influence in curing the underlying evil.

"The crying need is more houses and nothing short of the active resumption of building on a large scale will bring adequate relief. This fact was emphasized in the report of the Reconstruction Commission that I submitted to the Legislature. We have had six months' experience with the recent rent legislation. I am informed that the joint Legislative Committee on Housing have some recommendations for the strengthening of certain features of this legislation. Committees of citizens, civic organizations and officials of the cities throughout the State have been grappling with the complicated problem of housing and no doubt from their efforts will come some suggestion looking to permanent relief.

"I am setting the extraordinary session at a date that will give them all ample opportunity to present for consideration their suggestions along this line. Judging from the public statements made by officials of the cities, the emergency is so great that a saving of four months in the passage of helpful legislation is a gain of which advantage must be taken.

"Accompanying the proclamation for the extraordinary session I have issued proclamations calling special elections on the 16th of September, 1920, in the five large Assembly districts that would not be represented in the Assembly at the extraordinary session. I am unable to bring myself to the undemocratic way of thinking that five large Assembly districts, containing a population of approximately 250,000 people in the congested portions of the counties wherein the unrepresented Assembly districts lie, and vitally affected by the housing conditions, should be without representation in the Assembly."

Ask Rate Suspension Action.

In the first year of his term an extra session was called by Governor Smith. It was the shortest one on record. It began on the night of June 17 and adjourned after four hours' of deliberation. In that time it passed a proposed amendment granting suffrage to women; passed four laws to relieve the housing situation and resolutions to exempt from Federal taxation loans of a land bank and provide legislation for farm loans.

The belief was expressed here that the forthcoming session would not last more than a few days at the most.

At the conference of Corporation Councils of the State today, called to consider rate increases asked for by the New York Telephone Company, resolutions were adopted urging Governor Smith to call an extraordinary session of the Legislature to consider the passage of a rate suspension bill, simi-

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lar to the one that failed to pass the regular session. If such a bill is passed before Sept. 1 and is made retro-active, the proposed new rates of the New York Telephone Company which go into effect on that date will be suspended pending an inquiry.

The conference also adopted a resolution asking the Public Service Commission at once to begin an investigation of the increase on its own motion. Such an investigation would include the rates that went into effect on Dec. 1 last and which are now being fought by the Corporation Counsel and law officers of 137 cities and villages of the State through the Public Service Commission.

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